

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (currently amended)** An isolated polypeptide selected from one of the groups consisting of:

- (a) an isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide comprising ~~thesequence~~ the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide positions 1-474;
- (b) an isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- c) an isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- d) the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and
- (e) fragments ~~and variants~~ of such polypeptides in (a) to (d) that are immunospecific for said polypeptides.

**Claim 2 (original)** The isolated polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 comprising the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

**Claim 3 (original)** The isolated polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 which is the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

**Claim 4 (currently amended)** An isolated polynucleotide selected from one of the groups consisting of:

§Appl. No. 10/049,568  
Amdt. dated September 3, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of March 6, 2003

- (a) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) an isolated polynucleotide having at least 95% identity to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (c) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (d) an isolated polynucleotide having a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (e) an isolated polynucleotide with a nucleotide sequence of at least 100 nucleotides obtained by ~~screening a library under stringent hybridization conditions with~~ hybridizing, at 42°C in a solution comprising 50% formamide and 5XSSC, a labeled probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof having at least 15 nucleotides with a library comprising nucleic acid;
- (f) a polynucleotide which is the RNA equivalent of a polynucleotide of (a) to (e);

or a polynucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide

and polynucleotides that are ~~variants and~~ fragments of the above mentioned polynucleotides and specific thereto or that are complementary to above mentioned polynucleotides, over the entire length thereof.

**Claim 5 (original)** An isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 4 selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) the isolated polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (c) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ

§Appl. No. 10/049,568  
Amdt. dated September 3, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of March 6, 2003

ID NO:2; and

(d) an isolated polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

**Claim 6 (currently amended)** An expression ~~system~~ vector comprising a polynucleotide capable of producing a polypeptide of claim 1 when said expression vector is present in a compatible host cell.

**Claim 7 (currently amended)** A recombinant host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 6 or a membrane thereof expressing the polypeptide of ~~an isolated polypeptide~~ selected from ~~one of the groups~~ group consisting of:

(a) an isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide comprising ~~thesequence~~ the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide positions 1-474;

(b) an isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) an isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(d) the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and

(e) fragments ~~and variants~~ of such polypeptides in (a) to (d) that are immunospecific for said polypeptides.

**Claim 8 (currently amended)** A process for producing a polypeptide of ~~an isolated polypeptide~~ selected from the group ~~one of the groups~~ consisting of:

(a) an isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide comprising ~~thesequence~~ the sequence of

§Appl. No. 10/049,568  
Amdt. dated September 3, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of March 6, 2003

SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide positions 1-474;

(b) an isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) an isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(d) the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and

(e) fragments ~~and variants~~ of such polypeptides in (a) to (d) that are immunospecific for said polypeptides.

comprising the step of culturing a host ~~of as defined in claim 7~~ under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering the polypeptide from the culture medium.

**Claim 9 (original)** A fusion protein consisting of the Immunoglobulin Fc-region and any one polypeptide of claim 1.

**Claim 10 (previously amended)** An antibody immunospecific for the polypeptide of claim 1.

**Claim 11 (currently amended)** A method for screening to identify compounds that stimulate or inhibit the function or level of the polypeptide of claim 1 comprising a method selected from the group consisting of:

(a) measuring or, detecting, quantitatively or qualitatively, the binding of a candidate compound to the polypeptide (or to the cells or membranes expressing the polypeptide) or a fusion protein thereof by means of a label directly or indirectly associated with the candidate compound;

(b) measuring the competition of binding of a candidate compound to the polypeptide (or to the cells

or membranes expressing the polypeptide) or a fusion protein thereof in the presence of a labeled competitor;

(c) testing whether the candidate compound results in a signal generated by activation or inhibition of the polypeptide, using detection systems appropriate to the cells or cell membranes expressing the polypeptide;

(d) mixing a candidate compound with a solution containing a polypeptide of claim 1, to form a mixture, measuring activity of the polypeptide in the mixture, and comparing the activity of the mixture to a control mixture which contains no candidate compound; or

(e) detecting the effect of a candidate compound on the production of mRNA encoding said polypeptide or said polypeptide in cells, using for instance, an ELISA assay, and

~~(f) producing said compound according to biotechnological or chemical standard techniques.~~

**Claim 12 (newly added)** A method of producing a compound that stimulates or inhibits the function of the polypeptide of claim 1, comprising identifying a compound according to claim 11, and producing said compound according to biotechnological or chemical techniques.

**Claim 13 (newly added)** The isolated polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide fragment comprises amino acid positions 72, 74, 93-97, or 122 of SEQ ID NO:2.

**Claim 14 (newly added)** The isolated polynucleotide of claim 4, wherein the polynucleotide comprises nucleotide positions 215, 220-221, 277, 286-287, 364, 402-403, or 436 of SEQ ID NO:1.